VIETNAM COURIER

Sept. 18 1967 No 129 4th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY — E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street — Hanoi D.R.V.N. — Tel. 3841

NORTH Vietnam

UP TO SEPTEMBER 13, 1967

2,296

U.S. PLANES DOWNED

APROPOS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. POLITICAL PROGRAMME

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's MESSAGE TO Mr NGUYEN HUU THO

RECEIVED NOV 1967 UNIV. WIS. LIBRARY

"A Programme Voicing the Grim Determination to Defeat Completely the U.S. Aggressors and Their Henchmen, Traitors to the Country"

Dear Comrade President and Members of the N.F.L. Central Committee,
Dear Compatriots, Fighters and Cadres in South Viet Nam,

At the very moment when the armed forces and people in both zones of our country were recording one glorious victory after another in their resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation made public its Political Programme. This is a programme of broad national union, a programme voicing the grim determination to defeat the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen—traitors to the country.

Over the past seven years, under the clearsighted leadership of the Front, our compatriots and fighters in the heroic South, uniting closely and fighting valiantly, have been smashing all aggressive schemes of the enemy. The more than one million U.S., puppet and satellite troops have been inflicted heavy blows. The U.S. aggressors are finding themselves in a losing position and stalemate. Stimulated by their victories, the armed forces and people in the South are attacking the enemy without let-up in all fields and everywhere. These glorious victories are daily consolidating and enhancing at home and abroad the prestige of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. Our Vietnamese people and Fatherland are very proud of the heroic South, the Brass Wall of the Fatherland.

Bogged down in the South, the U.S. aggressors are frenziedly expanding their war in the South and "escalating" their attacks against the North. At the same time, they are prattling hypocritically about peace. However, neither bombs nor shells can cow our people, and no willy words can deceive them. We, Vietnamese, are resolved to fight till not a single U.S. aggressor remains on our beloved land.

Unity is our invincible strength. The Political Programme of the Front is the banner of broad national union rallying the entire South Vietnamese people in the fight against U.S. aggression and for national salvation till final victory. Already united, our people will unite still more broadly and more closely. We shall unite still more broadly and more closely with our brothers and friends all over the world, including the progressive people in the United States, who are doing everything in their power to support us. However ferocious the U.S. aggressors may be the strength of our great unity is sure to crush them.

Thanks to their firm unity and matchless heroism, our compatriots, fighters and cadres in the South have won great victories. Now, millions as one, uniting more closely, fully carrying out the correct Political Programme of the Front and giving fuller play to their heroic mettle, our entire people in the South are sure to achieve successfully the liberation of the South, defence of the North and eventual peaceful reunification of the country.

Animated with the determination to defeat the U.S. aggressors, our 17 million compatriots in the North pledge themselves to do their best to emulate one another in production and the fighting, thus fulfilling their sacred duty toward the kindred South.

With the invincible strength of our great unity, we shall certainly win.

When reunification comes, when North and South are reunited,
How full of joy my heart will be.

On this occasion I kiss our old people, fighter-sponsoring mothers, cadres and fighters, heroes and anti-Yankee fighters, youth and children in the South.

I cordially send to you, Comrade President and members of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., my salutation of determination to win.

Hanoi, September 6, 1967
HO CHI MINH

SOUTH Vietnam

L.A.F. fighters closing in upon the enemy

SEE PAGE 8:

HEAVY LOSSES OF THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND QUISLINGS

• • •

A COLLEGE IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE

THE Vienna Volkstimme *has just carried a series of articles on North Viet Nam written by OTTO JANECEK who has spent three weeks in the D.R.V.N. during which he could witness the life of the people and their struggle against the air war of destruction by the Yankees.*

One of his articles is printed below.

"WE need just now more technicians, economists, doctors, pharmacists. At present, all our higher schools have been evacuated. We left Hanoi with 20,000 students, we'll come back with 100,000..." (1).

"You have gone to the country?" I asked.

"No, into the jungle. The country, the delta, is full of people. We have plenty of room in the jungle. It's also safer. There we can find building material in abundance. Our students can supply themselves with food. The war has raised new problems but has also simplified many old ones. Everyday, we discover something new. To mention one example, new relations have been established between professors and students. And also new relations with the environment..."

"I cannot have a somewhat exact idea of all this."

"Come to our homeland in the jungle. Visit one of our universities there, please."

One week later, I was in the North Viet Nam College of Pharmacy which was set up in a glade of a virgin forest. Such farmers' thatched huts as seen everywhere in the country stood under trees. But they were not farmers' cottages, they were students' dormitories and auditoriums. A dog ran across a field of vegetables before me. I heard the regular clatter of a type-writer from some office on my right.

The sight of a college in the heart of the virgin forest was by no means trivial. Buildings were scattered. We covered kilometre after kilometre of paths crossing glades and jungle ricefields. Among students' huts, there were huts inhabited by farmers.

"Farmers here were at first much reserved. But they are now at home with us. Our students help them. We have opened a hygiene course for them. We have waged a fight against many diseases. Since we showed them microbes through microscopes, they have been boiling water before drinking it."

The woman professor pointed to a woody hill. "Our students of the second year are there. We'll arrive soon."

... The landscape looked like a natural group of scattered hamlets. It must convey the same impression, seen from above, somewhere, a generator was sputtering; it provided electricity for laboratories. The wind smelt of acids. In a glade, two pretty girl students were sitting, revising their lessons while two American bomber fighter planes were circling overhead.

"They are looking for something," a professor remarked.

For a few minutes, I had the impression we were their target. The planes flew higher then disappeared. In the evening, we were informed that they had looked for a bridge which had not been assembled until dusk.

The professors said to me: "Let us go over there. The students coming from Quang Binh only a few days ago are building their dormitory. Let us go and cheer them up..."

(Continued page 7)

Photos (*page 2*):

— *Jungle laboratories of the College of Pharmacy.*

— *A group of students from Quang Binh singing.*

DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

SINCE the launching of the air war of destruction by the U.S., education in North Viet Nam has not only been maintained but has also continued to develop.

GENERAL EDUCATION

During the 1966-1967 school-year, the pupil body of general education schools totalled 3.3 million, i.e. 17.2 per cent of the whole population.

There is at least one primary school in every village; one elementary school for from one to two villages in the delta or for every three villages in the mountain area, and one secondary school in almost every district in the delta. During the school-year 1966-1967—two years after the U.S. had launched its air war of destruction in North Viet Nam—the total of general schools was 10,987 attended by 3,329,613 pupils, as against 9,295 schools with 2,673,994 pupils during the 1964-1965 school-year.

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION (SCHOOL-YEAR 1966-1967)

1.2 million persons attended supplementary classes (primary schools: 770,000; elementary schools: 390,000; secondary schools: 40,000).

MORE SCHOOLS AND CLASSES OF VARIOUS KINDS

— 2,800 "Three-Responsibility" schools or classes of complementary education have been opened for 70,000 women.

— 2,000 complementary education and elementary technical schools opened in the countryside for 200,000 students.

— 100 primary and elementary schools have been opened for 5,500 youth of various nationalities.

— Elementary schools are opened in every district and province for leading cadres.

— Complementary schools for students of worker and peasant families and for primary school teachers are opened in 20 provinces.

— Higher education courses are run in 27 schools and production establishments, and part-time classes of elementary education are opened in 130 establishments.

FORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKERS

— Prior to August 1945, there were all over Viet Nam about 600 people graduated from the University, almost all of them doctors and lawyers.

— After the August 1945 Revolution and during more than 8 years of resistance war against French colonialism, the D.R.V.N. trained 475 cadres of university level and 2,935 cadres of secondary education level.

— Only in six years after the restoration of peace in 1954, 8 universities were opened in North Viet Nam with over 900 teachers and over 17,000 students, and 55 middle vocational schools with over 26,000 students.

— By the end of 1965, 16 universities and university

(Continued page 7)

August, a Month of Splendid Exploits of North Viet Nam People and Army

IN an attempt to put an end to their gloomy plight in South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists took a most serious war escalation against the D.R.V.N. in August last.

On August 11, 1967, the U.S. aggressors initiated their new escalation with an attack against many areas in downtown Hanoi including the Long Bien bridge and a number of localities in the suburbs. They bombed and strafed the heavily populated areas in the heart of Hanoi such as the Hoan Kiem hospital close to the Central Cathedral (August 11), Hue Street, one of the most bustling areas of the city (August 22), etc. But they were duly punished. In three days (Aug. 11, 21 and 23) 20 U.S. planes were knocked down over Hanoi and on Aug. 31, 18 planes were downed in North Viet Nam.

That was a stern reply of the Northern people and army to the U.S. aggressors' fresh escalation.

The shore artillery units of Vinh Linh, Quang Binh and Thanh Hoa recorded new feats of arms in August: 7 U.S. warships including the cruiser *Saint Paul* and 2 commando boats were set afire. The prestige of the U.S. 7th Fleet once again was seriously impaired. It was a relevant punishment to the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. aggressors north of the 17th parallel.

Dealing a deadly blow at Johnson and his clique's war escalation, the various arms and services of North Viet Nam armed forces, enjoying wholehearted support from the people, have expressed the iron-like determination of the Vietnamese people to fight and defeat the aggressors, and accomplished a further advance in the way of close, flexible and effective combat actions. On August 11, 21, 23, and 31, the people's armed forces of North Viet Nam shot down from 10 to 13 U.S. planes per day and on some day 3 or 4 planes were downed by the Vietnamese people's air force.

The accurate fire of the missile units operating in combination with the artillery,

(Continued page 7)

NEW FEATS OF ARMS OF QUANG BINH GUNNERS

ON the afternoon of Sept. 2, the sun was setting behind the thickets of filaos. Spreading every stitch of sail, fishing boats were returning to the shore. Suddenly two enemy destroyers turned up off the shore of Quang Binh. Within the twinkling of an eye, all the guns of a coastal defence unit were ready to open fire.

The leading ship came closer. It bore the number 745. A salvo was fired from the shore and the destroyer was surrounded by geysers. Soon it was set ablaze and turned tail. The other ship rushed forward, guns blazing, but is was immediately hit by a salvo. A column of flames rose up from the ship. It too turned tail and fled. Within a mere six minutes, deserved punishment had been meted out to both vessels.

That same afternoon, a little further south, two other destroyers encroached upon our territorial waters. The surface of the sea had grown greyish. As soon as the ships came within range, nine salvoes were fired in close succession by the shore batteries. A column of fire and smoke spewed up from the first vessel, which bore the number 851. Without firing a shot in return, both vessels hastily fled.

On the morning of Sept. 3, enemy reconnaissance planes hovered over a region lying between the two above-mentioned zones. In the afternoon two destroyers appeared off the coast. Drawing on the previous day's experience, they kept a long distance away, steaming up and down. On the shore our gunners silently kept watch. (At 2.20 p.m., the first vessel, bearing the number 871, veered and headed for the shore. Immediately the shore batteries crashed: the ship was engulfed in flames, its radar antenna and conning-tower knocked down.

Four enemy warships set afire in two days: a very meaningful way for the coastal defence units of Quang Binh to commemorate two historic days: The August Revolution (August 19) and the National Day of Viet Nam (Sept. 2).

It Is the Aggressors in Viet Nam Who Manipulate the United Nations

THE U.S. ruling circles are actively trying to get the U.N. interfere in the Viet Nam problem on the occasion of the forthcoming 22nd session of the U.N. General Assembly. U.S. delegate to the U.N. Arthur Goldberg has met a number of representatives of various countries. On September 7, he said that the U.S. still continued considering the possibility of the U.N. playing part in bringing an "honorable peace to Viet Nam."

On September 8 U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk also declared: "We would welcome any contribution the United Nations could make toward peace in South-East Asia."

By getting the U.N. to interfere in Viet Nam is a shopworn trick of the U.S. imperialists in their aggression against Viet Nam. The U.S. has long been scheming to get a seat in the Viet Nam for their henchmen in Saigon. Over the past years, it has many times attempted through the U.N. to legalize its war of aggression against Viet Nam. These schemes of the U.S. have been thwarted by the firm stand of the Vietnamese people and strong protest by world public opinion.

This time, with its scheme to bring the Viet Nam problem before the U.N. the Johnson Administration once again attempts to get U.N. intervention in Viet Nam, with a view to carrying through the U.S. aggressive design there, turning South Viet Nam into a neo colony and a military base of the U.S. and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam.

By taking up the Viet Nam question before the U.N., Johnson also tries to cope with public opinion in the world and also in the U.S. which has been strongly protesting against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and demanding an end to it. At the same time, he strives to cover up the acts of war intensification and expansion by the U.S. in both zones of Viet Nam. The fact that the U.S. plans to raise the Viet Nam problem at the U.N. is part of its "peace negotiation" swindle.

The Vietnamese people have many times clearly stated that the U.N. has no right whatsoever to interfere in Viet Nam. The Viet Nam question can only be settled on the basis of the 4 points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the 5 points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. These positions reflect the main principles and provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. The U.S. imperialists have trampled upon the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, brazenly sent American troops for an aggression against South Viet Nam and aircraft on bombing raids on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The U.S. must therefore stop the aggression, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, end permanently and unconditionally its bombing raids and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.; recognize the South Viet Nam N.F.L. as the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs.

If the U.S. stops its aggression, the war will end and peace will be restored in Viet Nam. Reversely, if the U.S. stubbornly carries on its war of aggression, the Vietnamese people will go on fighting till complete victory. The manoeuvre of getting the U.N. to intervene in Viet Nam and all other "peace negotiation" tricks of the U.S. will certainly be foiled.

On July 30, U Thant, Secretary General of the U.N., recognized that the resistance carried out by the Vietnamese people was a "national resistance against Americans."

The U.S. imperialists—the aggressors in Viet Nam—are also dominating the U.N. and scheming to use it as an instrument to carry out their policy of aggression and war provocation. Besides the socialist countries, however, more and more nationalist countries and a number of allies of the U.S. at the U.N. oppose the U.S. policy.

At the recent sessions of the U.N. General Assembly, representatives of many countries sternly condemned the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam. The Johnson clique's efforts to sell the "goodwill" of the U.S. on the Viet Nam problem are also aimed at coping with protest which, as the U.S. has foreseen, will be strong at the forthcoming General Assembly session.

The U.S. aggressors have suffered heavy defeats and are up to their neck in the Viet Nam quagmire. But they are still obdurate and bellicose. Their decision to beef up their troop strength in South Viet Nam and serious escalations in North Viet Nam as well as their manoeuvre to get the U.N. to intervene in Viet Nam throw a bright light on their utterly reactionary policy. The people throughout Viet Nam are determined to beat off all these new U.S. assaults. The U.S. imperialists will sustain even heavier defeats, both military and political.

A DESPERATE ESCALATION

SUCCESSIVELY on Sept. 11 and 12, 1967, Seventh Fleet-based aircraft bombed Cam Pha port and the city of Haiphong in North Viet Nam. In their raids against Haiphong U.S. planes struck at populated districts lying on over a mile's distance (*UPI*, Sept. 12). Western news agencies described it as one of the heaviest bombings so far (*AFP*, Sept. 12). These attacks damaged a number of economic establishments and caused many casualties among the civilian population. Right after the attacks, Washington sources reported that the White House might order the U.S. air force to strike at the town and harbour of Hon Gay as well as many targets still spared by its war escalation.

On Sept. 10, 1967, Lyndon B. Johnson said that the Americans would not bomb Haiphong port in view of the fact that the *Lusitania* and *Maine* incidents had led the United States to World War I and the Spanish-American War (*Reuter*, Sept. 10). The U.S. president has unmasked his own hypocrisy.

Everyone remembers that from mid-1966 to August 1967, American planes repeatedly hit the centre and periphery of Hanoi, bombed and strafed areas along the Sino-Vietnamese border, and went so far as to violate the air space of the People's Republic of China. Step by step Washington has engaged deeply in the dangerous escalation in North Viet Nam. It has been preparing public opinion for further attacks on the D.R.V.N.'s capital and the blockade of Haiphong port, which would entail serious consequences.

Meanwhile, the Americans are speeding up the dispatch of 45,000 more expeditionary troops to South Viet Nam. Thailand's first mercenary battalion is also on the way there. On the other hand, Defence Secretary McNamara openly declared on Sept. 7 that a "wall" bearing his own name would be erected in the southern part of the demilitarized zone, from the sea to the Viet Nam-Lao frontier, in an obvious attempt to permanently divide our country. The above-mentioned war acts of the Yankees are in fact desperate efforts to offset their recent failures on the South Viet Nam battlefield and in the war of destruction against North Viet Nam.

One now witnesses controverries, particularly between the Pentagon and the commanders of various arms and services, over the American strategy in Viet Nam. But what "doves" and "hawks" quarrelled about was the disastrous results and the way of conducting the bombing of North Viet Nam and the search for a way out of the war now in stalemate in South Viet Nam; they quarrelled about the ways and means to be adopted to step up the war. And all of them agree to escalate the war, to increase pressure on the Vietnamese people, in order to force us to the conference table and to accept their terms. In these controversies, the U.S. warmongers, while producing the list of already hit targets, are doing their best to make people believe that they have bombed or will bomb only military targets or those having a strategic character. Purposely, they hush up their crimes of attacking countless civilian targets such as schools, hospitals, temples, pagodas, churches and economic installations catering for the people's daily necessities. They covered up the recent air raids on Sept. 11 and 12 on the busiest quarters of Hanoi (Hue Street, the Hoan Kiem hospital right in the heart of the city) and on peripheric villages where more than hundreds of people were killed and injured. The American rulers' cruelty was such that the French weekly *Nouvel Observateur* had to write in August 1967: "Towards the end of this summer, genocide is becoming all too flagrant, and assassination all too insolent. Never has the U.S.A. gone so far as in last week. Never has its rage of destruction reached such a limit. With this, more than ever before, Viet Nam has become our bad conscience."

As usual the escalations by the U.S. are accompanied with its "peace efforts" exposed by world public opinion. This time, the novelty lies in that the Washington bosses allow Nguyen Van Thieu to state that should he be elected president, he would propose a suspension of the bombing of North Viet Nam and negotiation with Hanoi or he "might contact N.F.L. men" or permit other pro-American elements like Truong Dinh Dzu—a presidential candidate—to put forward a "peace" electoral program. Commenting Thieu's move, *UPI* (Aug. 27) said it was but the Americans' viewpoint. What value can have the manoeuvres of those puppets in a fraudulent election?

(Continued page 6)

DECLARATION OF THE VIET NAM FATHERLAND FRONT CENTRAL COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE

IN August, the month of splendid victories, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. held an Extraordinary Congress and unanimously adopted its Political Programme. This was an event of important historic significance, making a new development of our southern compatriots' great patrfotic struggle, and at the same time a precious contribution to our entire people's fight against U. S. aggression, for national salvation.

Seven years ago, born in the high revolutionary movement of the South Viet Nam people, with a Ten-Point Programme, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. brought to the forè a policy of broad national union, of resolute struggle to defeat the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen. Under the Front's glorious banner, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have endured untold sacrifices and hardships, fought heroically and won brilliant victories, smashed the U.S. aggressors' "special war" strategy, initially got the upper hand of their "limited war," and liberated four-fifths of the territory of South Viet Nam and two-thirds of its population. They have been stepping up their invincible people's war, maintaining their initiative of action, and unremittingly attacking the enemy in all theatres of operations, thereby driving him into passiveness, stalemate and lamentable failure.

The sacred resistance of our southern compatriots has made an important contribution to the defence of the North, mobilized and inspired our northern compatriots in their efforts to build up and safeguard the socialist North, and enthusiastically to discharge their duty as the big rear towards the big front.

The great successes achieved by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people over the past seven years have eloquently testified to the complete correctness of the line of leadership of the N.F.L. Determined to fight for the interests and aspirations of our fourteen million compatriots in the South, the Front, which enjoys a great prestige at home and abroad, has become the sole authentic representative of the heroic South Vietnamese people.

At present, while brazenly escalating their war of destruction in the North, the U.S. imperialists are intensifying their war of aggression in the South, causing countless sufferings and mournings to our people. In face of our country and sacred national rights being trampled underfoot, our life and property violated, our dignity smeared which exasperates our hatred for the enemy and increases our responsibilities towards our fatherland and our families — all patriots in South Viet Nam, including those in the urban and rural areas still under the adversary's control, clearly realize the necessity of closing their ranks to save their country and their families.

In such a situation, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. has developed its previous Ten-Point Programme into a Political Programme with clear-cut national-salvation tasks and objectives, namely, "*to unite the entire people, resolutely to defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow their lackeys' puppet administration, establish a broad national, democratic, coalition administration, build up an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.*"

THE N.F.L.'s Political Programme clearly sets forth general and concrete policies aimed at settling basic problems regarding the struggle of our fourteen million southern compatriots against U.S. aggression and for national salvation and construction — policies which respond to their aspirations, and thoroughly and rationally guarantee the legitimate interests of all the strata of the South Vietnamese people.

The Political Programme vividly expresses the blood-sealed solidarity between North and South and the iron will of our whole people to reunify the country, and points out at the same time the policy of gradual reunification through negotiations and mutual agreements, without pressure from either side and without foreign interference.

The Political Programme brings out in relief the N.F.L.'s foreign policy and line of peace and neutrality, that is, resolutely and thoroughly to safeguard the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, to oppose all schemes and acts of aggression and intervention of imperialism, to implement the five principles of peaceful co-existence, to unite with the other peoples of Indo-China and the world's peace- and justice-loving people, and actively to take part in the common struggle of the world's people for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Holding aloft the broad-national-union banner, the banner of determination to fight and to win, the Political Programme constitutes an expression of the very clear-sighted and sensible policy of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. to fight against the U.S. for national salvation. Surely, it will create an invincible strength, arouse, mobilize, inspire, organize and conduct the entire South Vietnamese people who, in the wake of their victories, will rush forward to resolutely wipe out the aggressors and traitors to the country so as to bring their struggle for national salvation to a victorious end.

ON behalf of seventeen million people in the North the Extraordinary Conference of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee warmly hails the South Viet Nam N.F.L.'s Political Programme and wholeheartedly support it. Shoulder to shoulder with the N.F.L. and fourteen million of their compatriots in the South, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and seventeen million people in the North are determined to fight and to defeat the U.S. aggressors, to defend the North, liberate the South and proceed towards national reunification, thus contributing to the safeguard of peace in Asia and the world.

With a view to responding effectively to the South Viet Nam N.F.L.'s Political Programme the Extraordinary Conference of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee calls on the seventeen million people in the North to emulate with one another in production and fighting and to give wholehearted and unstinted support and assistance to the struggle of their kith and kin in the South.

U.S. imperialism will certainly be defeated!

The Vietnamese people will certainly win!

The Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation will certainly materialize!

Hanoi, September 7, 1967

THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. POLITICAL PROGRAMME WARMLY WELCOMED BY WORLD OPINION

IN August, a month of splendid exploits, the South Viet Nam N.F.L. held its Extraordinary Congress and unanimously adopted the Political Programme. This event of historical significance has marked a new development in the great patriotic struggle of the South Vietnamese people and constitutes a valuable contribution to the struggle of the entire Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialists, for national salvation.*

Indeed! the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme is not only warmly congratulated by all the Vietnamese people but also enjoys the sympathy and support of many countries in the world.

At a ceremony held on Sept. 4, 1967 in Peking to receive the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme presented by Nguyen Minh Phuong, acting Head of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Delegation in China, Premier Chou En-lai paid tribute to, and expressed his admiration for, the staunch determination of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. in mobilizing and uniting all forces which could be united to support and take part in the struggle against U.S. imperialism and for national salvation. He declared: "700 million Chinese people armed with Mao Tse-tung thinking pledge themselves to be a reliable rear for the Vietnamese people. The Chinese Communist Party and Government unswervingly and resolutely support the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S., for national salvation."

On Sept. 5, 1967, Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the *Neo Lao Hakxat*, sent congratulations to Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. He said:

"The issue of the Political Programme has not only given the entire heroic Vietnamese people a new joy and a firm confidence in their final victory, but also constituted a strong stimulus to the national liberation movement in the world, because it conforms to the aspirations of the Vietnamese people and the law governing the development of the world people's revolution."

On Sept. 6, 1967 in Phnom Penh, Prince Norodom Phurissara, Foreign Minister of Cambodia, warmly welcomed the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme and thought that thanks to its correct leadership, the Front has united the broad masses of the South Viet Nam people and inflicted heavy losses on the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in their war of aggression against South Viet Nam. He expressed his conviction that this new Political Programme would be welcomed and supported by the Vietnamese people as well as by world public opinion.

The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front stated: "The Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is a concrete proof of the decisive role of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., the organizer and leader of the liberation struggle of the South Vietnamese people." It fully backs the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and supports unconditionally the political programme for the struggle for a peaceful and free Viet Nam."

Commenting on the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, *Pathet Lao* Radio in a special broadcast to introduce the Programme, considered it to be a staggering blow dealt at the U.S. imperialists who were trying to prettify the Saigon puppet administration by organizing the faked election which just ended in a fiasco.

Pathet Lao Radio pointed out:

"Insofar as the Indo-Chinese peoples are concerned, the Political Programme has underlined the militant solidarity between the peoples of South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in the struggle against the common enemy — U.S. imperialism — and for national independence and peace in Indo-China and South-East Asia."

The *Renmin Ribao* (P.R. of China, in its issue of Sept. 7, 1967, devoted a whole page to publish excerpts of the Political Programme and of the report read by President Nguyen Huu Tho at the extraordinary congress.

Sinhua Press Agency published the main parts of the Political Programme in two releases.

The *Rodong Shimoon* (D.P.R of Korea) in its issue of Sept. 6 editorially wrote:

"The Political Programme clearly reflects the correct line and policies of the N.F.L. in the struggle against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation, and the firm determination of the South Vietnamese people to fight and defeat the U.S. imperialists... The Korean people will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people to fight to the end against U.S. imperialism — the common enemy of the two peoples — and will do their best to support the just struggle of the Vietnamese people."

The *Granma*, organ of the Cuban Communist Party, on Sept. 8 frontpaged the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme.

The *Nép-Szabadsag* (Hungary) on Sept. 5, after hailing the Programme and clearly pointing out that the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is controlling four-fifths of South Viet Nam's territory with over 10 million people, reaffirmed:

"The South Viet Nam N.F.L. obviously is the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people; it has uphold the interests of the people... The Hungarian people is firmly convinced that with this Political Programme, the N.F.L. will rally yet broader masses of people in South Viet Nam and win more sympathy and support from the progressive people all over the world."

The *Trybuna Ludu* (Poland) on Sept. 6 wrote that the Political Programme is a summary of the political and military successes recorded by the South Viet Nam patriots since the foundation of the N.F.L. (Dec. 20, 1960) and outlined the tasks for a higher stage of the national liberation struggle. The article affirmed: "... The South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme will create favourable conditions for the widening of the political and social basis of the N.F.L. and the stepping up of the struggle against the U.S. imperialists and the Thieu-Ky reactionary administration."

The Soviet paper *New Times* commented: "Carefully studying the N.F.L Political Programme, one will see that the armed struggle against the U.S. aggressors in South Viet Nam has been waged alongside the development and strengthening of the political forces. These forces decide the destiny of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam."

(*) *Declaration of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee.*

Letter from Hanoi

BETWEEN two alerts, I hunted in vain all book stores for the latest novel Hon Dat *by Anh Duc. The work had sold out rapidly after its publication, in spite of an imposing circulation. All Hanoi took a great fancy to it. In the end I had to borrow it from a friend of mine. I understand the success of the novel because, carried away by its rhythm and its content, I shimmed through it at a single stretch. How to boil down this 350-page story to a few lines? Especially as in this Southern village which has, by a thousand and one ways, put up a victorious resistance to a whole Saigon troop battalion, everybody has taken part in it, and the novelist has succeeded in making alive, under our eyes, not a shapeless mob, but characters well individualized, all striving towards a common aim, but each with his own, personality and in his own, with his inmost feelings and his idiosyncracies. Young girls in the prime of life, alert and resolute, old mothers, devoted and heroic, in all their simplicity, steel-willed militants, the common folks full of initiative, and facing them, the Saigon troops, the scum of society mixed up with honest people, commanded by men blind with class hatred or corrupted by the dollar, how to evoke this environment of the novel, the picture, so lively, of a multiform struggle?*

I would like to tell you simply in what circumstances this novel was written. Its author, Anh Duc, a young writer, has for years shared all the trials of a militant west of the Mekong delta. He had to supply information for a paper and see to the working of a printing house. Like all writers (and artists) of liberated South Viet Nam, he had to divide his time into three nearly equal portions: one for the digging of shelters, one for food production and one for professional work. U.S. planes and cannons pound the localities of the liberated areas day and night. Everybody must dig shelters everywhere he goes, to eat, sleep and work in, writers and all others alike. Growing potatoes, manioc and vegetables, fishing, raising poultry, the writer and the artist does all that like anybody else. In regions where the soil is unproductive, food production takes more than half the time. So, there is little time left for writing, composing, painting. And this must be done with very little paper, by the light of a flickering lamp, in a stuffy underground trench. What a small poem, a short paper article, a simple sketch takes in way of pains and efforts!

And more often than not, it even takes its toll of blood. For the writer, the painter, and of course the script-writer, could create nothing with his meditations only. He must leave to the burning reality of a people engaged in a titanic struggle, and follow the combatants in their marches and their battles and the crowds in their demonstrations under the threat of enemy machineguns. Many a writer or an artist has fallen on the fields of honour or been tortured to death.

Nevertheless, works flourish. Poems, short stories, novels, films, sketches, paintings, and plays spring into existence day after day. It is because the fighting and the new life in the liberated areas radiate so much beauty that artistic creation operates, surmounting difficulties apparently insurmountable. In late 1965 the N.F.L., by instituting the Nguyen Dinh Chieu prize, awarded prizes to 54 works of arts and literature. Some of these works translated in several languages have found, so to say, a world-wide repercussion. Films have won prizes at international festivals. Remarkably enough, all these literary or artistic works, if they reflect the harshness of the struggle, are radiant with optimism, the optimism of a people sure of its victory. Carried by the revolutionary tide, writers and artists also feel great joy at finding, for their works, an audience of gold. In spite of enemy planes and cannons, everytime there is a theatrical performance, people walk ten or fifteen kilometres to see it, of course after having dug shelters around the stage. When an art troupe operates near Saigon, the city folks, braving police cordons, throng to see it by the thousand. In every village in the liberated zone, even in those almost completely razed to the ground by enemy bombs, one artistic group, often two, are to be found, that of the children and that of the grown-ups. There is a great demand for songs, dances, sketches, plays.

So when you think about South Viet Nam, don't have in mind only the images of villages destroyed and children roasted by napalm, but also of children who sing and dance, theatrical troupes which stage plays almost everywhere across the country, writers, script-writers, painters who are daily creating authentical works. The pursuit of beauty is inseparable from the fight for freedom. Art is also a weapon for liberation.

Cultural Activities in South Viet Nam Liberated Areas

A film show in the open air

Theatrical performance in the jungle

Exhibition

Printing

PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG:

"The Vietnamese People Strongly Support the Just Struggle of Black People in the U.S."

In a meeting with S. Carmichael, a leader of the movement of the Black people in the U.S. on a friendship visit to Viet Nam, Premier Pham Van Dong declared:

"THE Vietnamese people deeply sympathize with the sufferings of the Black people in the U.S. and regard them as their brothers and close comrades-in-arms in the strugele against the common enemy — U.S. imperialism.

"The Vietnamese people sincerely thank the Black people in the U.S. for their warm support to the Vietnamese people's resistance against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation, and rejoice to see that this valuable support is increasing with every passing day among Black servicemen in the U.S. army.

"The Vietnamese people fully approve and strongly support the just struggle of the Black people in the U.S who, under the leadership of their leaders, are firmly opposing racial discrimination which has been made a state policy of the U.S. Government and practised in a most odious and cruel manner by the U.S. ruling circles. This struggle is aimed at securing legitimate rights, and is consistent with the deep aspirations, of the Black people in the U.S. It is, therefore, capable of stimulating the sense of close solidarity and staunch fighting spirit of the Black people and is bound to develop broadly and quickly and acquire an invincible strength.

"The Vietnamese people firmly believe that the just struggle of the Black people in the U.S. which is enjoying the sympathy and strong support of the African peoples as well as of the peoples in other parts of the world, will surely tide over all difficulties and hardships, and win glorious victory."

TOKYO TRIBUNAL TRIES U.S. WAR CRIMES IN VIET NAM

FROM August 28 to 30, 1967 in Tokyo, the Tokyo Tribunal to Try U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam held a 3-day session on the initiative of the Japanese Committee for Investigation of U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam.

The Tribunal consisted of 21 members and 36 witnesses, and 900 people were in the audience.

Representatives of all the strata of the people of Japan, members of the Japanese delegations having visited Viet Nam, and witnessed the U.S. war crimes there and the war activities of the U.S. and Sato government, produced testimonies of, and denounced, the U.S. imperialists' and the Sato clique's offences. They brought before the Tribunal many exhibits of U.S. crimes in Viet Nam: fragments of napalm bombs found in the peaceful cities and villages of Viet Nam barbarously bombed and strafed by U.S. planes, splinters of phosphoric bombs which caused incurable wounds, and many photos of children, women and old people burned by napalm bombs, etc...

In the last session, the Tribunal unanimously condemned the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and the Sato government's collusion with the U.S. imperialists in this war. The Tribunal indicted the war acts of the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam as war crimes which constituted unprecedented breaks of international law and humanitarism in the world history of war.

The Tribunal declared its support for the just position of the Vietnamese people, demanded that the U.S. government stop at once the bombings and strafings of North Viet Nam, withdraw from Viet Nam, that the Japanese government and monopoly capitalists refrain from co-operating and joining hands with the U.S. imperialists, that the U.S. and all other aggressive forces observe the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and leave the Vietnamese people to settle themseves their internal affairs.

L.B. Johnson's "Optimism"

(Continued from page 8)

Repeated attacks were also mounted against the most heavily guarded areas in the First Tactical Zone where Westmoreland mustered 75,000 U.S. Marines, reinforced his Oregon "shock force" consisting of three American brigades. Besides Da Nang and Phu Bai, Hoi An town on the seacoast deep in the enemy lines was assaulted by the L.A.F. who controlled it for 4 hours: a puppet engineer battalion, a transport company of 50 vehicles and a psychowar company were wiped out. The towns of Tam Ky and Quang Ngai and such bases as Dong Ha, Doc Mieu and Gio Linh near the 17th parallel, were again and again attacked pratically without opposition: 300 enemy troops were wiped out at Dong Ha; Quang Ngai town was stormed and 1,200 Saigonians detained by the enemy were set free. Tam Ky town was also attacked twice within 5 days early in September.

In late August and early September, the L.A.F. put the enemy in a greater quandary by cutting off his communication lines, thus turning their positions into isolated islands in the sea of guerilla war. The situation on the Nam Bo battlefield supplies a clear proof of this apart from major battles such as the wiping out of 400 enemy troops at Can Le, of one battalion near Cao Lanh town, of 200 puppet soldiers at Can Tho city, the L.A.F. cut off Highway 4 from Saigon to My Tho, from My Tho to Sa Dec, from Can Tho to Soc Trang, by blowing up bridges and slashing the road in many sections. Even interprovincial roads linking such provinces as Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, Can Tho, Sa Dec, Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, were mined or cut off by the guerillas.

Such is the situation in South Viet Nam in the last few days. Why did Johnson and his generals display such "optimism?"

It seems that in face of the present wave of pessimism which spreads among the American people concerning the fatal outcome of the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam, Johnson for whom lie is a political means, has shown this attitude in order to hoodwink public opinion at home and abroad and better conceal the serious situation of the U.S. warmakers.

REUNIFICATION OF KOREA IS KOREAN PEOPLE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE U.N. HAS NO RIGHT TO DISCUSS IT

ON the evening of Sept. 7 in Hanoi, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Vietnam-Korea Friendship Association and the Viet Nam Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries held a meeting to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Sept. 9).

Following the opening speech delivered by Xuan Thuy, member of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and member of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee Ha Giang, Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam-Korea Friendship Association paid tribute to the great achievements recorded by the heroic Korean people in the past 19 years, under the clearsighted leadership of the Korean Workers' Party headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung. She strongly denounced and energetically condemned the U.S. imperialists for having made repeated military provocations against the D.P.R. of Korea, occupied South Korea and turned South Korea into an aggressive military base of the U.S. in the North-East of Asia, ordered the Pak Jung Hi puppet administration to send over 50,000 South Korean youth to serve as cannon-fodder for the U.S. in South Viet Nam and schemed to illegally take up the "Korean issue" at the U.N. She stressed, "The Vietnamese people resolutely support the just struggle of the Korean people aimed at driving the U.S. imperialists out of South Korea."

SUPPORT ZIMBABWE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE

ON the Day of International Solidarity with the Zimbabwe people (Sept. 12), *Nhan Dan*, organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, published the article *Support the National Liberation Movement of the Zimbabwe People* by Mme Nguyen Thi Luu, Secretary General of the Viet Nam Afro-Asia Solidarity Committee. Following are some excerpts:

"... The Vietnamese people fully support the national liberation movement of the Zimbabwe people, energetically condemn the colonialist regime and racial discrimination of the Ian Smith clique, resolutely demand that it observe the right to independence of the people of Zimbabwe, end its terror and persecution of the patriots of Zimbabwe, and release immediately those who are illegally detained.

"The Vietnamese people energetically protest against the British, American and other imperialists in the N.A.T.O. bloc for having joined hands with the Ian Smith clique to repress the Zimbabwe people.

"In spite of many difficulties and hardships encountered in the struggle for national liberation, thanks to the close solidarity and determination to fight, the people of Zimbabwe will certainly come out victorious in their struggle against the Smith clique's colonialist regime and apartheid and for genuine freedom and independence."

A Desperate Escalation

(Continued from page 3)

Meanwhile the U.S. warmongers are trying to entice the United Nations, an organization manipulated by the U.S., to meddle with the Viet Nam problem. Quibbling over their five-point proposal, they turn down the sensible proposal to stop unconditionally the bombing of the D.R.V.N., withdraw U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and recognize the National Front for Liberation as the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

For Washington the most important thing remains war escalation. It still harbours the illusion that it will frustrate the resistance of the Vietnamese people. That is why, while speaking of peace, it carries on the war. But, resolute to follow up their victory, the entire Vietnamese people are determined to foil its new escalation and schemes and eventually to defeat completely the U.S. war of aggression.

A COLLEGE IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE

(Continued from page 3)

Quang Binh was one of the most heroic provinces in North Viet Nam. It lies near the 17th parallel. Almost all its cities and villages had been destroyed. People generally lived underground. Those students had gone on foot for weeks and were now building their huts. Within a few days, they would have beds, kitchens, trenches covered with bamboo and clay leading to dormitories and auditoriums. And also places for sports drills, which were camouflaged with movable bushes when not used, so as to escape air observation.

Need such young men to be comforted? Looking at them in the eyes, I spoke to them of the solidarity movement in my country, of demonstrations and meetings. I told them that the movement included not only communists but also even more numerous strata, young social democrats, young catholics, and that students were playing an important part in this campaign in my country. The meeting ended with an ovation and two South Vietnamese song accompanied by a bamboo flute.

I was told: "We can endure primitive life. In the end, one gets used to it. But our higher school has to face other trying difficulties."

The College of Pharmacy had more students than formerly. Over 2,000 students lived scattered on a surface of ten square kilometres. More generators were required to supply laboratories with power. There was not much technical literature, especially pharmaceutical literature from European countries in German, English and French. Part of the laboratory equipment was produced on the spot, in the very jungle, as I could see for myself. In a hut, there was a blowing apparatus with which complicated distillation retorts were made from simple glass tubes.

Let me mention that the College of Pharmacy was born in the jungle, during the resistance war against the French colonialists. It had then trained pharmacists for the army. The production of certain medicines from local tropical plants had been carried out in a systematic way. Some veterans of those times were here. They had left the forest for Hanoi then had come back to the forest. Among them was Nguyen Thi Ha Thuong, a little woman who was now Party secretary and deputy head of the school.

"We are of course prepared to the eventuality of U.S. bombing," she said to me. "We envisage the possibility of having to work under the ground. Our friends in South Viet Nam have passed on to us their experiences..."

The little woman said that calmly, with a fine smile, as if she were speaking of the fine weather on that day.

(1) The conversation took place at the Literature Temple in Hanoi, built in the 11th century. The author was interviewing Ta Quang Buu, Minister of Higher Education and Secondary Vocational Education.

AUGUST... DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

(Continued from page 2)

militia and home defence guards, has caused great difficulties to the enemy, split their combat formations thereby enabling the Vietnamese people's air force to record glorious exploits which fill the Hanoi people with joy by turning enemy planes into burning torches in the Hanoi sky.

August was also a month in which the U.S. air force had 12 jet planes downed by the Northern militia's and home guards' small arms fire. The U.S. air force "escalation" in the North was further damaged in their new steps of "escalation." The downing by small arms of the plane manned by Colonel Wallace Hunds was especially humiliating for the U.S. air force.

Suffering bitter defeats in South Viet Nam, Johnson and his clique want to get out of their quagmire by bombing and strafing North Viet Nam. Being unmasked in their dirty war of aggression in Viet Nam, they resorted to the trick of "escalating" higher in the North, hoping to threaten the Vietnamese people as well as the world people by their weapons. But the staggering blows dealt at them by the Northern people and army in these last two years and especially in this historic month of August, have fully spoken out the irretrievable failure of their policy of strength. The more they are obdurate to throw themselves into the war of aggression in South Viet Nam and attack the North, the heavier will be their defeats.

(Continued from page 2)

level courses and 135 middle vocational schools were built, with over 5,000 teachers and more than 90,000 students. Especially during the recent two years fighting against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, the number of scientific and technical cadres and economic management cadres trained in North Viet Nam has doubled that in peace time.

At present, the number of government employees with higher education level has increased 39 times and those with secondary education 29 times, compared with the time when peace had just been restored.

— During the 1966-1967 school-year, there were in North Viet Nam 35 higher education schools and classes and departments with nearly 50,000 students, and 185 middle vocational schools with nearly 100,000 students.

EDUCATION IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

Prior to the August 1945 Revolution there was not even one literate person in some groups of the North Viet Nam mountain areas inhabited by many minority nationalities. There were here and there only a few general education schools. Nowadays, illiteracy has been basically wiped out among the North Viet Nam minority nationals, while the first Five-Year Plan for complementary education has been fulfilled in many provinces. Over 70 per cent of Viet Nam Workers' Party members, youth and responsible cadres at village level have finished at least the third form of general education. In some districts where almost all village cadres were illiterate in 1960, elementary complementary and technical schools have now been opened for cadres and youth, many of whom are now attending the seventh form. In the mountain areas, there is a network of 70 part-time courses now attended by nearly 16,000 youth of various nationalities; one elementary school has been built for every three villages and secondary schools have been set up in many districts. In the past five years, nearly 4,000 teachers of various nationalities have been trained. Besides, there was a teachers' training college in the mountain area in the school-year 1966-1967 with 400 students and 100 teachers and staff members from 14 nationalities.

AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE SAIGON "ELECTIONS"

A U.S.-SUPPORTED MANOEUVRE

ACCORDING to an *AP* message of September 9, some 300 adherents to different students' organizations in Saigon held a meeting in their premises and declared that the presidential and Senate elections of Sept. 3 had been rigged and engineered from outside. They denounced them as a U.S.-supported manoeuvre and stated that the newly-elected 60-member Senate is like a brothel house infected with diseases.

A FRAUD

AP also reported that on September 9 about 300 Buddhists gathered in the An Quang Pagoda to protest against the elections as a fraud beneficial to Nguyen Van Thieu. They branded Thieu a "traitor" and declared that they would trigger off a movement throughout South Viet Nam in protest against Thieu—Ky.

In addition, the bonzes demanded that Thieu - Ky release hundreds of Buddhist followers kept in custody since August last year.

The same agency said that the Buddhists displayed anti-Thieu - Ky slogans in many pagodas and temples of Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and other cities.

15 PETITIONS AGAINST THE ELECTION RETURNS

15 petitions against the election returns were sent to the Saigon "National Assembly" by "electors" and "civilian candidates," among them 8 presidential candidates headed by Truong Dinh Dzu and Phan Khac Suu, *Reuter* reported on September 10. The petitioners denounced a series of Thieu - Ky's violations of election procedures such as allotting to themselves more time on radio and television programs than to the other candidates. They demanded that the "National Assembly" declare the election returns null and void and that new elections be held.

It is to be recalled that the "civilian candidates" had many times raised their voices against Thieu - Ky's fraudulent election manoeuvres and made known that they would set against them.

A POLITICAL MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

ON September 8, Nguyen Van Thieu refused to show up on the N.B.C. television as had been scheduled previously. Said *AP* September 9: Thieu explained his change of mind by the fact that most of the questions he was to deal with would relate to policy-making and that none of them concerned Ky. *AP* added that this brought into the open the latest and prolonged conflict between the two men, and that the political marriage of convenience of the two army leaders in a common ticket was an uneasy union. Ky who resented his being forced to be a vice-president without authority would not keep still, and he and Thieu would naturally get at each other's throat, *Reuter* revealed on September 7.

HEAVY LOSSES...

(Continued from page 8)

battalion put out of action. The major commanding the battalion was captured. Also in this battle the L.A.F. knocked out a transport company of 50 military lorries and 1 company of "agents" of psychowar, information, "open arm" service, and captured 76 "pacification cadres" and cruel agents.

PHU YEN

BEFORE dawn Sept. 7 the U.S. Marines in Tuy Hoa airfield and the C.P. of the enemy military sector, about one and a half kilometres from the airfield, were stormed, western reports said. The enemy disclosed that 1 petrol depot south of the airbase was hit, many G.I.'s and puppet troops were killed or wounded.

BEN TRE

GPX reported on the L.A.F. attack on Ben Tre city in the night of August 31 as follows: Mortar shells hit the enemy military sub-sector headquarters, the provincial administrative quarter, the radio-brodcasting station and the electric power station, killing or wounding 80 enemy troops.

THUA THIEN

ACCORDING to *GPX* latest reports, in the L.A.F. attacks against Hue city and Phu Bai in the night of August 26, 580 enemies were put out of action, most of them being U.S. officers and intelligence technicians, 50 aircraft and 40 military vehicles destroyed, 3 military craft sunk and many ammunition dumps and petrol depots blown up.

THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

RADIO

TRANSMISSIONS IN ENGLISH

Hanoi time	G.M.T.	Meter bands	Frequencies
6.00— 6.30	23.00—23.30	25, 31, 240	11.840, 9.489, 1.240kc/s
17.00—17.30	10.00—10.30	25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
20.00—20.30	13.00—13.30	25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/s
22.30—23.00	15.30—16.00	25, 31, 240	11.760, 9.760, 1.240kc/

SOUTH VIETNAM

HEAVY LOSSES OF THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THEIR HENCHMEN

- **QUANG TRI: 300 G.I.'s Put out of Action, 12 Tents Burnt or Destroyed, 2 Choppers Downed (Sept. 7) ☆ 219 U.S. Marines Wiped Out at Con Tien (Sept. 10) ☆ 16 Planes and Helicopters, 2 Radar Stations, Many Tanks and Armoured Cars Destroyed and 80 G.I.'s Killed at Dong Ha Base (Sept. 3).**
- **QUANG NAM: 2 U.S. Companies Wiped Out and 2 Others Decimated at Que Son (Sept. 4-7) ☆ Da Nang Airbase Shelled (Night of Sept. 8).**
- **PHU YEN: The C.P. of a Military Subsector and Tuy Hoa Airfield Attacked (Night of Sept. 6).**
- **BEN TRE: Many Enemy Positions in the Town Assaulted (Night of Aug. 31).**

QUANG TRI

THE guerillas and regional army on Sept. 7 intercepted 2 U.S. Marine platoons in Bac Son, Gio Linh district, south of the demilitarized zone, killing 30 G.I.'s and wounding many others, *G.P.X.* reported.

In the afternoon, 3 companies of U.S. Marines of Battalion 3, Regiment 26, sent to the rescue, immediately fell into the ambushes of the Liberation regular army: 300 were killed or wounded, 12 tanks destroyed or damaged, and 2 choppers downed.

Not until the next morning dared the U.S. aggressors send helicopters (in 50 waves) and many military lorries to pick up the dead and the wounded. Many more Yanks were wiped out by the L.A.F. artillery.

Also in Gio Linh district, on the morning of Sept. 10, the L.A.F. stormed a U.S. artillery emplacement. The enemy admitted: 14 U.S. Marines were killed or wounded.

The L.A.F. on the same day fiercely intercepted the U.S. Marines of Regiment 26, some 4km south of Con Tien, taking a toll of 219 G.I.'s killed or wounded, according to enemy's reports.

In Dong Ha district town before dawn September 3, the guerillas and local army attacked the U.S. military port, sinking or destroying 5 landing craft, damaging 2 others. The next day (Sept. 3) the L.A.F. launched another attack on this base, destroying 12 helicopters, 3 C.130 transport planes, 2 radar stations, many tanks and armoured vehicles, burning 1 big ammunition dump and 1 petrol storage, killing 80 Yanks.

QUANG NAM

ON the night of Sept. 8 and early on the morning of Sept. 9, the L.A.F. attacked Da Nang airfield by heavy guns. Preliminary reports of the enemy said at least 2 enemy planes were destroyed and 12 G.I.'s killed or wounded.

On September 10, the L.A.F. attacked one detachment of U.S. Marines and puppet troops 5 km east of Hoi An. On the next morning (Sept. 11) the L.A.F. stormed an enemy position about 40 km south of Da Nang, wiping out 15 U.S. Marines.

On Sept. 6 (night) the U.S. Marines of Regiment 5 were assaulted 24 km northeast of Tam Ky town: 188 G.I.'s were killed or wounded, according to enemy's reports.

For the whole day of Sept. 4, the L.A.F. attacked 1 battalion of U.S. Marine Regiment 5 near Que Son (45 km south of Da Nang): they wiped out the battalion staff and 2 companies, badly mauled 2 other companies, brought down 4 aircraft and captured huge quantities of arms and military equipment (*G. P. X.* latest reports). The Yankees admitted: 397 U. S. Marines were wiped out in 3 days ending Sept. 7.

According to the *G.P.X.*, in the L. A. F. attack on Hoi An town Aug. 26 (night) 1 puppet engineer

(*Continued page 7*)

FOR the last weeks, Johnson and many American generals have been optimistic and have boasted that the war in South Viet Nam has been developing to their advantage. What in fact is the military situation there?

After the failure of their second "dry-season strategic counter-offensive" (Winter 1966-Spring 1967) the American troops fell back on the defensive. Johnson summoned Westmoreland to Washington to "soothe" the American Congress. McNamara hurriedly made an inspection trip to Saigon to study the possibility of using the U.S. and puppet armies in a more efficient manner. Taylor and Clifford made a tour of satellite countries to recruit mercenaries. Johnson promised to do his best to reinforce the expeditionary forces with an extra 50,000 G.I.'s. He threatened to mete out punishment to those officers and soldiers who complain about the M.16 type weapon and forbade anyone to speak of the "stalemate" of the U.S. troops. In a word, the general situation leaves little ground for the Yankees to be "optimist."

In fact since August 1967, the G.I.'s have launched some major operations but the result was that the raid mounted by 7 battalions of U.S. and puppet troops early in August on a locality 10km north of Saigon ended with 560 men killed or wounded, including 474 G.I.'s, 20 aircraft downed or damaged and 5 war vessels sunk or damaged. General John Freund, commanding Light Brigade 199, had a leg broken when he was directing the operation from the air. In another raid on Duy Xuyen district south of Da Nang (Quang Nam province) also in early August, a U.S. battalion was virtually wiped out: 300 G.I.'s were killed or wounded, 10 armoured cars destroyed or damaged and 2 planes downed.

Operation *Lien Ket* 112 mounted against three districts of Quang Nam province also ended with 150 casualties for the enemy.

On August 9, in an operation barely 15km north of Ba Ria town the Australians had one company completely wiped out and another badly mauled.

L.B. JOHNSON'S "OPTIMISM"

At 6km from Cua Viet south of the demilitarized zone, on September 1, a battalion of U.S. Marines, in co-ordinated action with a battalion of puppet troops coming from the west of Gio Linh, was beaten black and blue. Leaving the puppet soldiers in the lurch, the Yankee fled to Cua Viet but received a sound beating from L.A.F. big guns: 200 G.I.'s were put out of action and 5 armoured carriers destroyed.

In the latest raid so much boasted of by the Yankees early in September on Que Son district, Quang Nam province, according to *GPX*, the U.S. had 2 companies and a battalion C.P. wiped out and 2 other companies decimated. The Yankees' failure thus was left in no doubt.

From the first big operation launched in South Viet Nam (*Fire Arrows*, early 1966) to the well known Operations *Double Eagle* (1965), *Attleboro* (1966), *Junction City* (early 1967), the Yankees never ceased to claim that they were victorious. But the fact is that Westmoreland had to call for more reinforcements.

The enemy received heavy blows, whether during his raids or dug in in solid fortifications.

Glancing back at the situation since August last, nearly all South Viet Nam towns and cities have been more or less damaged by the L.A.F. attacks. In July the L.A.F. assaulted the U.S. bases at Da Nang (seventh time) and Lai Khe (Thu Dau Mot province), destroying 88 planes: in August they delivered a thunder blow at Phu Bai base, destroying 50 aircraft and wiping out in one night 300 enemy troops including over 100 American officers and specialists of a technical intelligence centre. Lai Khe base had 21 planes destroyed and Nuoc Man, 18.

(*Continued page 6*)

Guerillas seizing the enemy's weapons after a battle in Tay Ninh province, South Viet Nam

Index 12634 — PRINTED IN HANOI — Signed for printing on Sept. 16, 1967